

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /121 W
-----082413 121338Z /41

O 121330Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1321
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01925

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, MARR, UNSC, PLO, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: ASSAULTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON
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REF: (A) STATE 117862, (B) USUN 1906

1. AT THE END OF A WESTERN FIVE MEETING ON ANOTHER SUB-
JECT, FRG PERM REP VON WECHMAR HELD THE GROUP BRIEFLY TO
REPORT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED BONN'S INSTRUCTIONS IN RE-
SPONSE TO THE ACTIONS TENTATIVELY AGREED BY THE GROUP AT

THE MAY 10 MEETING (REFTEL). HE SAID BONN WAS LEERY OF ANY DEMARCHES TO ARABS AS PROPOSED THE PREVIOUS DAY, AND PARTICULARLY THE THOUGHT OF ANY CONCERTED ACTIONS BY A GROUP SUCH AS THE WESTERN FIVE. BONN VIEWED APPROACHES TO MOST OF THE ARABS AS PROBABLY USELESS, IN ANY EVENT, AND LIKELY ONLY TO BRING FORTH THE ARAB QUESTION ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL -- WHICH VON WECHMAR CONSIDERED UNCERTAIN AT THIS STAGE AND NOT IN WESTERN INTERESTS TO PRESS TOO FAST.

2. VON WECHMAR SAID HE THEREFORE, IN LIGHT OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS, WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN ANY DEMARCHES HERE IN NEW YORK AND THE GERMANS WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY APPROACHES IN CAPITALS. HE AGREED THAT THE TROOP CONTRIBUTOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, NOW SCHEDULED FOR 5:00 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON, MAY 11, SHOULD GO FORWARD, HOWEVER, SINCE THIS GATHERING MADE SENSE IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT AND WOULD PROBABLY BE BENEFICIAL. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT BONN'S ONLY SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO THE PLO/UNIFIL PROBLEM IN LEBANON WAS THE SUGGESTION THAT WE ALL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET UNIFIL TROOP CONTINGENTS EQUIPPED AND ON THE GROUND IN LEBANON AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

3. CANADA, FRANCE AND THE UK ALL INDICATED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS AS YET. THE FRG STATEMENT, HOWEVER, SPARKED A BRIEF BUT LIVELY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DILEMMA FACING THE UN OPERATION IN LEBANON. A NUMBER OF THE REPS, SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND UNPREPARED, QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS PRACTICABLE TO EXPECT UNIFIL TO "CONTROL" THE AREA TO THE EXTENT OF PREVENTING ARMED ENTRY AND DISARMING ALL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATIONS. A CANADIAN OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT, EVEN IF UNIFIL MIRACULOUSLY SUCCEEDED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS KIND OF A MANDATE, THE PLO WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY OPPOSE THE LOSS OF TERRITORY IN WHICH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY FREELY MOVED, AND THE ARABS GENERALLY WOULD RETURN TO AN ARGUMENT WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE, TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE AN OUTCOME WHICH ESTABLISHES A UN BUFFER BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ENEMIES. YOUNG

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